

## READERS' FORUM

San Francisco, November 14, 1927.

To the Editors:

The editorial "Twenty-Five Years Ago," in Volume XXVII, Number 5, is very interesting.

It is only fair to the memory of Dr. Philip Mills Jones that attention be called to the dominant thought that was in the minds of the editor and the publication committee which supported him in founding the Journal, the accomplishment of which stands probably as the most enduring monument to the usefulness of the Journal. It should be interesting to the younger members of our profession who have never known of the vicissitudes under which the Journal had its development; it may prove of interest to some of the older ones who have perhaps forgotten.

When the Journal made its first appearance in November, 1902, the necessity of cleaning the advertising pages of medical journals of "unethical advertisements" immediately engaged the attention of the editor and his publication committee. The advertising pages of medical journals at that time generally were filled with nostrums and secret preparations which, had they been reviewed editorially in the journal which published them, would have been condemned. A large proportion of the revenues of these journals, however, were derived from these advertisements, and attack on this evil meant a bitter fight, for the great medical journals of the country were all offenders.

Doctor Jones, however, was a fighter, as many still living can attest who have had occasion to be on the opposite side from him in a controversy. He was a fair fighter, but a tenacious fighter. It would take too long to detail the progress of the bitter fight made at this time to clean the advertising pages of medical journals throughout the land, the acrimonious correspondence, and the abuse and vilification heaped upon Doctor Jones and his associates. It is largely set forth in the editorial pages in the numbers which comprise Volume II (1903). Success came because the cause was righteous.

Today the fight made by your Journal is largely forgotten; in fact much of the credit for clean advertising pages is proudly claimed by some of the former offenders. This matters little, if the object be attained. It is only fair, however, to Dr. Philip Mills Jones' memory that the facts be reviewed.

Yours very truly,  
GEORGE H. EVANS.

## TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO \*

### EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

Volume 1, No. 4, February, 1903

From some editorial notes:

... The commercial bodies of San Francisco in joint session passed resolutions early in this month tacitly admitting the presence of bubonic plague in the city, and promising support in the work of eradicating the disease, and rescuing the coast and nation from a threatened calamity. While the action is tardy and, naturally, taken reluctantly, it became absolutely necessary in order to escape the alternative proposed by the Surgeon-General—state quarantine. . . .

... Doctor Cheney in his address of welcome last year to the State Society well said: It is undoubtedly good for us to meet together and exchange views. No man knows it all. Each one is able to learn something from his neighbor. . . .

... The San Bernardino County Society has completed the necessary arrangements for affiliation with the State Society, and is now in line for protection

\* This column aims to mirror the work and aims of colleagues who bore the brunt of state society work some twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that such presentation will be of interest to both old and recent members.

and progress. Fresno and Riverside counties are also important recent additions. . . .

... At the annual meeting of the Kings County Medical Society (Brooklyn, New York), on January 20, Doctor Bartley read a report of the committee on milk inspection that is worthy of attention. It was found that the number of bacteria per cc. of ordinary "grocery store" milk averaged about 10,000,000, while the number per cc. in the milk furnished by dealers complying with their requirements and "certified," could easily be kept below 1500, and in many instances was well below 1000. . . .

... It is not proper nor is it ethical for the physician to make use of secret preparations or nostrums in his treatment of the sick. . . .

... It is with much pleasure that the journal records the passage of a bill through the Senate, on February 4, granting a pension of \$125 a month to the widow of the late Dr. Walter Reed, in special recognition of his eminent services to mankind in discovering the cause as well as the means of preventing transmission and propagation of yellow fever. . . .

... The Carnegie Institute (as well as the medical profession) is to be congratulated for undertaking the publication of the Index Medicus. Like many purely scientific publications, it could not be self-supporting, and hence died; that it is to be brought into life once more and the work taken care of by the Carnegie Institute, will be welcome news to many who have sadly felt the loss of this very valuable bibliographic publication. . . .

From the minutes of the San Francisco County Medical Society:

... At the regular meeting of the San Francisco County Medical Society, on Tuesday evening, February 10, Dr. George F. Shiels discussed Edebohl's operation for nephritis. . . .

... Dr. George Goodfellow read a paper on "Treatment of Gunshot Wounds," particular reference being made to wounds in the abdomen. . . .

... Doctor Cooper said that in the Boer war a surgeon who had been shot in the abdomen refused absolutely to take any sort of nourishment tendered him by well-meaning attendants on the field. He had eaten but little for some time before and his stomach was empty. The wound in the abdomen healed rapidly and the connection between the patient's abstinence and recovery was interesting. . . .

... Doctor Carpenter read the draft of a letter to be sent to President Roosevelt advocating the appointment of Dr. Chester Rowell, at present State Senator from the Sixteenth District, to membership on the Panama Canal Commission. On motion the letter was accepted as the sense of the society and ordered to be sent to the President. . . .

From the minutes of the California Academy of Medicine:

... The regular meeting of the academy was held at the offices of Doctor Sherman on the evening of January 27, Doctor Montgomery in the chair. . . .

... Dr. S. J. Hunkin presented a patient showing recovery from operation for tuberculosis of the ankle joint. . . .

... Dr. Philip King Brown read a preliminary report on his observations of strongyloides intestinalis and exhibited microscopic specimens of embryotic parasites. . . .

From an article on Hydrotherapy by Dr. George A. Hare, Fresno:

... If anyone thinks that hydrotherapy can be safely administered by the unskilled, successfully utilized by the empirical, or be easily comprehended by the superficial physician, we invite him to dispossess his mind of the physiological processes which may be controlled almost at will by the scientific use of heat and cold. . . .